

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 4, Folder 22

May 6, 1957 -
May 28, 1957

0428

6 May 1957

Dear Walker:

The World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College has currently under study the Battle for Leyte Gulf. In this connection, in order to determine the soundness and validity of many of the decisions made during this period, it is most essential that facts, rather than opinions or conjectures, be used as a basis for this determination.

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It is quite important that the details of the V-223 searches flown on this particular day be established. Further, the time remaining to complete this portion of the analysis is now quite limited. Therefore, it is requested that your reply be forwarded to the Naval War College at your earliest convenience.

In the event your records do not enable you to provide factual answers to the questions posed, it is requested that such information as you have relating to this problem, together with other information (e.g., names of co-pilot and navigator, along with their addresses) as you feel may be helpful in tracking down the answers desired, be forwarded as soon as practicable to this college.

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN(Ret)

Lt. Willard T. Walker
7640 Eggleston
Chicago, Ill.

0429

6 May 1957

Dear Moore:

The World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College has currently under study the Battle for Leyte Gulf. In this connection, in order to determine the soundness and validity of many of the decisions made during this period, it is most essential that facts, rather than opinions or conjectures, be used as a basis for this determination.

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Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, USN(Ret)

LCDR Daniel L. Moore, USNR(Ret)
P.O. Box 400
Bisbee, Arizona

0430

6 May 1957

Dear Squires:

The World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College has currently under study the Battle for Leyte Gulf. In this connection, in order to determine the soundness and validity of many of the decisions made during this period, it is most essential that facts, rather than opinions or conjectures, be used as a basis for this determination.

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Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

Lt. Graham B. Squires
RFD One
Alexandria, Va.

0431

6 May 1957

Dear Beckham:

The World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College has currently under study the Battle for Leyte Gulf. In this connection, in order to determine the soundness and validity of many of the decisions made during this period, it is most essential that facts, rather than opinions or conjectures, be used as a basis for this determination.

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Sincerely yours,

CDE William R. BECKHAM, USNR
2209 N. Crockett Street
Sherman, Texas.

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
(Ret.)

0432

6 May 1957

Dear Gudka:

The World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College has currently under study the Battle for Leyte Gulf. In this connection, in order to determine the soundness and validity of many of the decisions made during this period, it is most essential that facts, rather than opinions or conjectures, be used as a basis for this determination.

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Sincerely yours,

LT Payton W. Gudka
512 El Camino Drive
Fulleton, California.

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
(Ret.)

0433

6 May 1957

Dear Jolly:

The World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College has currently under study the Battle for Leyte Gulf. In this connection, in order to determine the soundness and validity of many of the decisions made during this period, it is most essential that facts, rather than opinions or conjectures, be used as a basis for this determination.

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Sincerely yours,

LCDR Jesse B. Jolly, USN
Ground Control Unit 50
Navy #3080
FPO, San Francisco, California.

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
(Ret.)

0434

6 May 1957

Dear Condon:

The World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College has currently under study the Battle for Leyte Gulf. In this connection, in order to determine the soundness and validity of many of the decisions made during this period, it is most essential that facts, rather than opinions or conjectures, be used as a basis for this determination.

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Sincerely yours,

LCDR Paul E. Condon
528 Forest Drive
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

0435

6 May 1957

Dear Bucklew:

The World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College has currently under study the Battle for Leyte Gulf. In this connection, in order to determine the soundness and validity of many of the decisions made during this period, it is most essential that facts, rather than opinions or conjectures, be used as a basis for this determination.

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Sincerely yours,

LCDR Oscar T. BUCKLEW, USN
Airborne Early Warning
Squadron TWO
U.S. Naval Air Station
Patuxent River, Maryland

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
(Ret.)

0436

6 May 1957

Dear Burton:

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Sincerely yours,

LCDR Francis O. Burton
5400 S.W. 98th Terrace
Miami 43, Florida

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
(Ret.)

0437

7 May 1957

Dear Captain Davis:

I know that we have problems and that you, with your twelve per cent reduction, have problems also, but I do wish that you would study your list of QMC's in an effort to locate a suitable replacement for Deering if that becomes necessary.

As I told you on the telephone yesterday morning, Deering is having very serious family trouble, so serious that I am not going to have his services now for a month, so that the turnover in the case of Trembath is affected immeasurably.

I find Deering to be a nice fellow and would like to keep him, but if his family problems are going to be so serious as to require his presence elsewhere most of the time, or if his mind is necessarily concentrated on other matters, I may have to forego him.

I don't think that he is anxious to leave here; in fact, he told me that he considered this a fine assignment. After his child is born and his wife's true condition becomes definitely known, we will know more about this.

I had no idea, until I got on shore duty here, of the many personal problems which both officer and enlisted men and their families are having today. I never noticed it in my divisions or command. Now, in the years I have been here in this College in this work, I have had two officers whose wives were strongly tubercular and now I have a QMC whose wife is so tubercular as to cause the loss of one lung (and poor functioning of the other) and may eventually cause the loss of her life.

0438

7 May 1957

Of course, you know more about these personnel problems than I do because you probably encounter them daily. It isn't too bad when your personnel are reasonably numerous; however, in my case, it is very serious as each and every person in this group has an assignment and, when he is absent therefrom, things are disrupted to a great extent.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Captain R.P. Davis, USN
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0439

7 May 1957

Dear Roger:

I spoke with Captain Nutting relative to permitting you and Mrs. Tanaka to view the film, The Battle of Savo Island.

I told him that you had worked on this for Admiral Morison and that I saw no reason why you should not be allowed to see it, especially since you not only have access to the book but have it in your possession. He replied that he would invite you to see the film. If he has not called you, I suggest you call him.

As regards Mrs. Tanaka, I told him that this was entirely a matter of Bureau policy. He replied to the effect that only those persons directly connected with the subject matter either militarily or otherwise and who should realize a profit therefrom are permitted to see the film, and therefore he was forced to reply in the negative in the case of Mrs. Tanaka.

This was for Savo Island! I may do better for her in the Coral Sea or Midway film but that I cannot say from here.

Aside from that, it was nice seeing you again. With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Roger Pineau
Room 1218 OPNav
Main Navy
Navy Department

0440

13 May 1957

Dear Judge:

I am quite sure you know about this, but I think it well that I reiterate what is going on between Mrs. Tanaka and myself.

Every now and then I find something that I question. I write to Mrs. Tanaka and, when she has an opportunity, she looks at it and gives me the correct translation or, as she is quite familiar with the Japanese picture, the benefit of her advice.

I also send her drafts I have made about the operations of the Japanese commanders which she looks at and, if she sees some reference to a translation that she has made and it does not seem properly used, she will advise me.

This does not take too much of her time, but I want to be sure that she doesn't "run foul" of you because of this fact.

I am going to Annapolis on Wednesday to be present at the dedication of the memorial to be given to the Naval Academy by my class. It is a large (one-and-a-quarter size) goat, the mascot of the Academy. When you see it, I think that you will agree that it is a swell job. You could guess that I am on the committee!

I may see you on Thursday. With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM E.M. Eller, USN(Ret)
Director, Naval History Div.
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0441

13 May 1957

Dear Mrs. Tanaka:

I am enclosing herewith copies of the letters to which I referred when I was down in Washington, and which have to do with the relative seniority of Admirals Ugaki, Shima, and Nishimura.

These letters are, to me, quite convincing and, even though the books you referred to give Admiral Ugaki as the junior, that evidently is one of those errors which are passed on and on without check.

I will be in Washington, arriving on Tuesday night, and will be in Annapolis on Wednesday. Therefore, I may get a chance to see you and Pineau on Thursday. I am not sure about this as yet, but it is likely.

I shall be happy to have the return of the papers (which I sent to you) with your comments. The enclosed letters support my remarks therein.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Lily Y. Tanaka
c/o Room 1231 (OP-292)
Main Navy Bldg.
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0442

17 May 1957

Dear Barefoot:

Enclosed is a letter written to Daniel E. Moore (LCDR, USN(Ret)), who was the patrol plane commander of your aircraft during the Battle for Leyte Gulf.

In response to this letter, CDR Moore was unable to shed any light on the problem indicated because he no longer was in possession of his Log Book.

However, he did indicate that you may have kept records of the flights made during this period and might therefore be able to answer the questions posed.

As stated in paragraph four of the enclosed letter, the time remaining to complete this portion is now very limited; therefore, it is requested that your reply be forwarded at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
(Ret)

LCDR Marvin B. Barefoot, USN^R
U.S. Naval Post Graduate School
Monterey, California

0443

22 May 1957

Dear Dick:

As you perhaps know--I think I talked with you about it before--we are working here on the study of The Battle for Leyte Gulf. It is written in a very detailed manner in order to produce those battle lessons which will be useful in the future and also to produce the true story of the battle.

We have already completed The Battle of the Coral Sea, The Battle of Midway, The Battle of Savo Island, and Volumes I and II of The Battle for Leyte Gulf.

Volume I of The Battle for Leyte Gulf covers the preliminary operations until 0719 October 17th including The Battle off Formosa, and Volume II of The Battle for Leyte Gulf covers the operations from 0719 October 17th until October 20th (D-day) (Admiral Oldendorf's operations and the Japanese operations in opposition thereto). The present volume, Volume III (of the same battle) covers all the landing operations which commenced, of course, on October 20th and stopped at 1042 on the morning of October 23rd when CTF 77 (Admiral Kinkaid), having received during that morning and the preceding day contact reports on stronger enemy forces than usual in the South China Sea, sent out a dispatch thereon.

I am enclosing herewith my writeup on the operations of COMSEVENTHFLT and CTF 77 for the three and one half days in question. This has largely been approved and is being prepared for the press now.

However, I went to Washington last week and talked with Admiral Kinkaid about certain matters relating thereto; notably, about Admiral Kinkaid's dispatch (230142). He asked me if I had talked with you about any of this and I said no because I hadn't known where you were. However, having seen you in New York and received your card I am now sending these completed drafts for your comment and if you find anything you think is particularly erroneous, your comments thereon would be appreciated. Memories being what they are, we may not accept what you say although we would otherwise like to.

0444

22 May 1957

I should appreciate it if you could take some time off and read this and then return it to me at the earliest practical moment.

Admiral Kinkaid and I talked about you and I told him about how we had been together in the old days here prior to the war and during the early days of the war; and how I felt that all of us had gotten a fine training here in the College in the difficult work which we had to do in those early days.

It was nice seeing you in New York and I hope you and yours are in fine shape. You look as if you have a good job!

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

VADM Richard H. Cruzen, USN(Ret)
Vice President,
Dew-Line Division
Federal Electric Corp.
Lodi, N.J.

0445

23 May 1957

Dear Joe:

This is just a memorandum to tell you what a pleasure it was to dine on board your flagship and to once again feel the salt air of the sea around even if I didn't feel it particularly under me. The luncheon was very nice. I was very happy to see that you were entertaining our foreign officers. It is a great privilege to them and they know it, and therefore what you are doing is all to the good. I think that by gestures of good will such as yours one can accomplish much more than by other measures which may seem more spectacular.

Thank you very much for the tie clasp. As an old destroyer man--I commanded three of them--I have a particular attachment to destroyers. Some day I am going to "bum" one of your destroyer certificates so that I can have it framed for my office.

I have talked with Admiral Robbins about the matter we spoke of yesterday and he says that he knows that we did have some disagreement with the newspaper but that he can't quite pin it down. However, he is of the opinion that the matters we discussed will continue to persist in the press. He agrees with me that if we could approach John Nicholas Brown and ask his advice it would be helpful. Because of this and because of the fact that John Nicholas Brown will be leaving for Europe shortly to attend his son's wedding and possibly remain there for a little while, I am rushing this memorandum to you. I am sure Mr. Brown will be glad to talk to you about it and it could well be that he may be the "opening wedge". Of course, there is the Chamber of Commerce also which you or Mr. Brown or somebody might contact.

I spoke to a citizen here about the newspaper, merely stating my own negative reaction toward it. He said "You should know that Mr. William Whitehouse (a very honored citizen who died several years ago) was violently against that paper". He claimed that the editorial staff was largely composed of a bunch of "leftists"--I think they call themselves "liberals"--from Columbia University and that these fellows were the ones who were dominating the editorial pages and

0446

23 May 1957

advancing ideas which were quite alien to more conservative fellows such as you and I. How true this is, I don't know, but there are reasons to believe at least some of it.

When you go to Washington tomorrow, I do hope that you will talk to Admiral Lee and see if you can get favorable action in the case of Trembath. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Admiral Lee so that you can orient yourself to the problem.

I appreciated your willingness yesterday to take some action and I feel sure that when a man of your reputation and experience talks to Admiral Lee he will be happy to abide by what you think is best.

With best regards and many thanks, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM J. C. Daniel, USN
Commander Destroyer Force,
U.S. Atlantic Fleet,

0447

28 May 1957

Dear Roger:

This note is to thank you for your kindness in allowing Mrs. Tanaka to translate those statements made by Admiral Kurita recently. There isn't anything too serious in them or anything quite new, but I am glad to note that Admiral Kurita is "mellowing".

Whether what he says today is true, I don't know--he may think they (the statements) are true. However, as time passes, we become inclined to choose a position which we feel is best. I even hear rumors that Admiral Halsey is "mellowing" and is inclined a little bit like Admiral Kurita to be a little more critical of himself. (Whether this is true, I do not know, but I do say I don't accept any statement of this nature as final when it is made today--I have to go on the record largely.)

I was talking to a Japanese officer the other day and I mentioned Savo Island and Admiral Mikawa. The officer looked at me and said, "I will tell you about Admiral Mikawa." He said that the younger officers in the Japanese Navy never trusted him--that he was very clever but was disloyal to his commanders and even to his own plan. "By that," this officer said, "I mean to say that he would be ready to drop a great success if he already had achieved a small one."

This is very typical, in my mind, of Admiral Mikawa's conduct at Savo Island.

I appreciated your comments concerning the film, Battle of Savo Island. I appreciated further your comment that the U.S. side was a "beaut". The Japanese side was also a "beaut". I would suggest to you not to believe everything you read in correspondence.

Outside of that, with best regards, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Roger Pineau
Room 1218 (OPNAV)
Main Navy
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0448

28 May 1957

Dear Whitey:

I am in receipt of a letter from a District Judge in the city of Minneapolis, Minn., who was at Global Strategy last year, and who now advises me that they have in Minneapolis an annual event which they call the Aquatennial--a week of celebrating and parades and water shows.

In addition, he says:

"On July 20 there will be a daylight parade which really is a magnificent thing. I am authorized by the Aquatennial, and you will also receive a letter from Mr. Erickson of that organization, to invite you to be Grand Marshall of that parade, and probably also, although this is not worked out in detail yet, to have you present the flags of the Cruiser Minneapolis at a large luncheon here in the City."

I think that I properly should accept this invitation, and I am writing to you for a reply as to whether the Department approves of this individual action.

The reason for this invitation is that I commended the heavy cruiser Minneapolis in World War II and because of the fact that I have five flags from that ship which we flew in action and which I have agreed to present to the City.

It seems to me that this would be a good opportunity for a certain amount of Naval publicity of a high type.

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Would you please advise me as to Navy policy in this matter and as to whether you recommend that I accept the invitation or not?

I have been asked to inform the District Court Judge, Judge Paul S. Carroll, as soon as possible as to whether or not I can be present.

New subject:

I want to congratulate you on your selection as the new Commander Destroyer Force Atlantic Fleet. I know of no better assignment, or of anyone who would better respond to the requirements of the assignment than you.

I feel that your predecessor, Admiral Joe Daniel, has done swell and that you will continue the success which Admiral Burke and Daniel achieved in this assignment.

With best regards to you and yours,
I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

RADM E. B. Taylor, USN
Chief of Information
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